

DETAILED ACTION

Reasons for Allowance

1. The following is an examiner's statement for reasons for allowance:

Prior art fails to teach a combination of elements including receiving a plurality of queue items at an input queue;

Wherein the input queue feeds a plurality of output queues that feed one or more output ports;

Determining whether a particular one of a plurality of output queues contains a number of queue items that meets or exceeds a pre-determined amount;

In response to a determination that the particular one of the plurality of output queues contains a number of queue items that meets or exceeds the predetermined amount, preventing any queue items that have a same corresponding output port as the particular one of the plurality of output queues and that have a queue item priority greater than or equal to the queue priority of the particular one of the plurality of output queues from exiting the input queue;

Wherein each of the plurality of queue items has a corresponding queue item priority and a corresponding output port from the one or more output ports; and

Wherein each of the plurality of output queues at an output port has a corresponding queue priority, as recited in independent claims 1, 7, and 12.

Specifically, the prior art generally mentions achieving the results of preventing high priority queue from exiting a port, but does not use the claimed method as the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences reasons.

These features, together with the other limitations of the independent claims are novel and non-obvious over the prior art of record. The dependent claims 2-6, 8-11, and 13-20, being definite, enabled by the specification, and further limiting to the independent claim, are also allowable.

Contact Information

2. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mahesh Dwivedi whose telephone number is (571) 272-2731. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Friday 8:20 am – 4:40 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tim Vo can be reached (571) 272-3642. The fax number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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